Docket No. AE97/151US

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which the gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol, after which the lyosol, in order to form a lyogel, is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of gravity ~~and which does not perceptibly dissolve in the lyosol~~.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the medium is air.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is sprayed into the moving air.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol particles are screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to gravity.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol particles are trapped in a layer of water.

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Claim 21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol particles are formed from silicic acid and mineral acid.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A process comprising using the substantially globular lyogels produced according to claim 13, to produce aerogels.

Claim 24. A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which a substantially globular lyogel, produced according to claim 13, is converted to an aerogel.

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